

A Scene of Spiritual Powerlessness (Mark 9:14-29)

Proposition: Every child of God that suffers from spiritual powerlessness can enjoy the blessing of having power with God by following the three instructions we see in this passage of scripture.

I. **Realize the Results of Spiritual Powerlessness** (Vs. 14-20)

A. The Result for the Suffering (Vs. 18,20)

B. The Result for the Saviour (Vs. 14-16)

C. The Result for the Servant (Vs. 18c)

II. **Review the Reasons for Spiritual Powerlessness** (Vs. 19-24)

A. Faithlessness in the Power of Jehovah (Vs. 19b)

B. Faithlessness in the Person of Jesus (Vs. 22-24)

III. **Rely on the Remedy for Spiritual Powerlessness** (Vs. 28-29)

A. The Searching for a Remedy (Vs. 28)

B. The Securing of a Remedy (Vs. 29c)

C. The Seriousness of a Remedy (Vs. 29c)

A Scene of Spiritual Powerlessness (MK9:14-29)

I remember a game late in my senior year at Southern Tech against Perdue College. It was in the final minutes of the game we were down by one.

I remember that scene how I found myself standing in the middle of the lane when one of my team mates Ricardo Picer put up a desperation shot with seconds to go to win the game. He missed the ball came off the rim practically in my hands and I took it and as quickly as I could put up the 'ugly' jump shot.

Looking back excuse for a shot that you could imagine up toward the goal. The ball bounced around the rim came out another tried to put it in to no avail. The buzzer sounded and the game was over we had missed our opportunity. We can all identify with missed opportunity but the saddest. Every Child of God that suffers from Spiritual Powerlessness can enjoy the blessings of having power with God by following the three instructions we see in this passage of Scripture.

I. The Results of Spiritual Powerlessness

Jesus along with Peter James & John are coming down from Mt of trans, that powerful other worldly experience to find a disappointing

and discouraging scene of utter powerlessness. results.

A. The Result for the Suffering (15:18, 20)

This father in deep concern for his son brings him to the ones that are supposed to heal him. They are supposed to have compassion and do something about the problem.

But the results of the disciples powerlessness is that the boy is in the same condition (15:20) still falling, still in danger. People like this ^{and can't get him} may walk in.

B. The Result for the Scribes (15:14-16)

This brought a reproach to the Scribes Jesus and he wasn't even there. The scribes were quick to point out and dispute the claims of the disciples. Why didn't you change this boy's life? Why can't you meet the need? Ravi Zacharias has said that the number one problem in church today is that for a people that

C. The Result for the Scribes - There

is a deep sense of guilt that can be felt by these words "and they could not." How that must have stung their hearts. How discouraging must it have been, defeating. How doubt must have crept in. So many times I have seen inmates that have professed, come back in jail time again. ^{Follow rest} Does gospel ^{Wk}

II. The Reason for Spiritual Powerlessness

Jesus came down to a scene of the Results of Powerless. These results we see every day. But the keen insight of the

- 1) ...the saddest missed opportunity of our day is the opportunity for the Church of Jesus Christ to minister in power to an unbelieving world. For the most part our churches seem to be powerless at thwarting the onslaught of Satan and finds it's self in ridicule before a watching world. This is the reason the text before us is so vitally important.

- 2) ...for a people that so often profess a changed live so often do not live a changed life. This reflects upon the reputation of our Saviour. He and his relevance to our world today is called into question time and time again.

1) Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

2) ...to do miracles. That doesn't mean that we sit on our pews of do nothing and say God will do it. No we are to reach and strive and have compassion and as we do so, know that the power to do miracles comes from God alone.

3) ... Ephesians 2:7 the grace of God comes through Christ; Phil 4:7 the peace of God through Christ; Phil 4:13 all things can be done through Christ! Ga 2:7 justified by Christ; 1 Pe 5:10 we've been called to glory by Christ. Jesus is the miracle worker, Jesus is the life changer, Jesus is the power giver!

Omniscient Christ exposes the Reason for Powerlessness

A. Faithlessness in the Power of Jehovah
(Vs 19b). "Faithless" Faithlessness is the proud
"generation" he reduced his 9 disciples down
to be different than the who crowd surrounding
him. So whatever they did to try to heal
this boy was not out of Faith, Rom 14:23 ①
They tried to heal this boy by their own sinful
flesh. Maybe one: did you Jesus do this before
Placed hand here, lift up head here said these words
and whammo! Nothing. They were not trusting
in God. Jesus performed miracles as a man
trusting in God! We are to have faith in God to do miracles ③

B. Faithlessness in the Person of Jesus.

(Vs 22-24) This father was in effect
as well from the other side of the coin.
This man had done everything that He
knew to do to try to save this boy.
(Vs 22) If there was any one there who
knew that he was powerless to help this
boy it was this father. His faithlessness
was in the person of Jesus. "If then canst"
Unbelief in who Christ was. Unsure of the
ability of Jesus! God works miracles through
Christ. Ga 4:7 Heir of God thru Christ! Ephes. ③

III The Remedy for Spiritual Powerlessness

The next logical step is for Jesus to
Reveal some sort of Remedy. And thank
God he does. We do not have to stay on

powerless people. We see in the closing verses asked.

A. The Searching for a Remedy - V38

Remember the start to becoming well is coming to grips w/ the fact you are sick. They realized something was wrong. They asked "Why Lord..." They just didn't chalk it up to something their net suppose to do. Most of us go on for years never asking, why do I not have power w/ God. Why ^I and not seeing God's hand.

B. The Securing of a Remedy - V39c

If you will recall in Luke 9:28 Jesus took the 3 to Mt. Transfiguration for to pray. Jesus was seeking the face of God in prayer. Then he came down and healed this boy! This kind cometh forth... Prayer! Prayer is the ^{key} to our faithlessness problem. Do you want to strengthen your faith? Pray! Pray to Secure a ^{Remedy}

C. The Seriousness of a Remedy - V39c

Also fasting. Now in that moment faced w/ that trial, Jesus didn't stop and fast right quick. No all this prayer and fasting preface the encounter with His Father. You see there is to be a serious earnest seeking for the power of God before we need the ^{key} in that valley! What are you going to do when the ^{moment} ^{waits}

IV. Closing - Are we missing opportunity

to testify of the Great Power of God because we are completely caught powerless, impatient, ineffective. May God Help us.

1) ...God's hand moving mightily in my life. Jesus didn't respond, well that's just out of your range. You've got no business in this whole power of God thing. No! He begins to teach them how to have power with God. Having the power of God on our lives is our birthright as believers! Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. 2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2) ...when the moment of desperation walks up to you. Depending that you have the power of God in your life! Be ready to minister. Don't miss the opportunity.